number of passports issued and passport applications pending in Andhra Pradesh for 1996-97 is given below:

Name of the office-Passport Office, Hyderabad

Year	Passport issued	Total Pendency	Pendency over one month*
1996	1,76,649	30,156	12,265
1997 (upto 31.10.97)	1,96,710	28,331	5,496

*These figures exclude the applications which are pending for less than a month. These are awaiting processing for want of police reports.

It can be seen from the table given above, that, while the total number of Passports issued by Passport Office, Hyderabad, has gone up significantly, the number of applications pending for over one month has been brought down signficantly. Nevertheless, a number of steps have been taken to clear the backlog of passport applications in Andhra Pradesh. To decongest the existing Office at Hyderabad, a new Passport Office has been opened at Vishakhapatnam, a collection center is also proposed for Vijaywada. With the opening of the new Passport Office the processing time is expected to be reduced further, thus bringing down the pendency. Delay in receipt of police report and receipt of vague and incomplete reports is one of the main reasons for pendency. Close and regular coordination is therefore maintained with concerned police authorities for cases where backlog is accumulated due to incomplete and vague reports. In addition to this, reminders are regularly sent to applications to meet deficiencies in their passport application forms and to submit additional documents wherever required with a view to clearing backlog of this kind. Staff strength of the Passport Office in Hyderabad has also been augmented to clear pendency. The present computerisation facilities of the Passport Office, Hyderabad, are being upgraded to facilitate faster screening and processing of applications. The newly opened Passport Office in Vijaywada is also being computerised to reduce processing time.

All Passport Officers including the Passport Officer at Hyderabad have been instructed by the Ministry to meet public at designated hours on all working days, not only listen to grievances and complaints of the public, but also register any suggestions made by them. A complaint-cum-suggestion box is kept in each Passport Office.

Outbreak to Polio in Uttar Pradesh

*36. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the outbreak of Polio, which is taking an epidemic proportion in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Increased incidence of polio cases has been reported this year from 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) As part of National Surveillance System set up in reference to Polio Eradication Programme, independent surveillance team has been made operational for Uttar Pradesh in the current year. In places where Polio cases have been reported, immunization of surrounding population has been carried out by Government of Uttar Pradesh to control the infection. Stool samples of affected children have been tested in specialised laboratiries. Central officers and institutional teams have visited Uttar Pradesh to assist local administration. State has been advised to improve immunization coverage and to ensure prompt reporting of the cases.

Post Graduate courses by Dental Colleges in the Country

*37. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Government and Private dental colleges in the country which have been permitted to start Post-Graduate courses and/or to enhance their BDS intake w.e.f. current academic session;

(b) whether permission has not yet been accorded to some of the applicant-colleges;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not granting the said permission; and

(d) what are the details of conditions subject to fulfilment of which the permission becomes operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) *Details of dental colleges allowed increase of seats from current academic year:*

(1) K.V.G. Dental College Sullia, Karnataka.

(2) Shri Ramchandra Institute of Dental Sciences, Chennai.

Details of dental colleges allowed for starting MDS courses from current academic year:

(1) K.L.B. Society's dental college, Belgaum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are as under :-

Applications pending for starting MDS courses:

(1) J.S.S. Dental College, Mysore.

(2) K.V.G. Dental College Sullia, Karnataka.

(3) P.M. Nadgouda Dental College & Hospital Bagalkot, Karnataka.

(4) Yenepoya Dental College, Mangalore.

(5) K.L.B. Society's Dental College, Belgaum, Karnataka.

(6) Ragas Dental College, Chennai.

(7) M.R. Ambedkar Dental College, Bangalore.

(8) Vinayaka Mission's Dental College, Salem.

(9) Balaji Dental College, Chennai.

(10) Meenakshi Ammal Dental College, Chennai.

(11) S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka.

(12) D.A.V. Centenary Dental College, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.

(13) Rajas Dental College Vadakkangulam, Tamil Nadu.

Details of colleges whose applications pending for increase of seats in BDS:

(1) Government Dental College & Hospital, Ahmedabad.

(2) Santosh Dental College, Ghaziabad.

(3) P.M. Nadgouda Memorial Dental College & Hospital, Bagalkot, Karnataka.

(4) Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's Dental College and Hospital.

(5) Balaji Dental College, Chennai.

(6) Meenakshi Ammal Dental College, Chennai.

(7) Thai Moogamtigai Dental College, Chennai.

Reasons for not granting permission - Non receipt of:

- Recommendations of Dental Council of India in many cases.
- Incomplete recommendations of Dental Council of India.
- Delay in receipt of compliance from the colleges on deficiencies pointed out by the Ministry or incomplete compliance.
- Late receipt of compliance and bank guarantee or the conditions stipulated in Letter of Intent.

(d) The organisation/Dental colleges shall qualify to apply for starting of MDS course and increasing the admission capacity in BDS/PG courses only if the following conditions are fulfilled;-

(1) *For starting MDS course:*

(i) Dental College/Institution is recognised by the Dental Council of India for running BDS course.

(ii) Permission letter from the concerned State/UT Govt.

(iii) University affiliation letter.

(iv) Feasible and time bound programme to provide equipment, infrastructural facilities and staff as per DCI norms.

(v) Selection of candidates will be made strictly on the basis of academic merit.

(vi) Bank guarantee for the required amount for providing additional infrastructural facilities.

(2) *For increasing admission capacity:*

In addition to the conditions mentioned above, the applicant intending to increase admission capacity has to furnish following documents also:—

(i) The existing Dental College is in possession of minimum 5 acres of land with required constructed area as per the provisions of Regulations.

(ii) Adequate hostel accommodation for boys/girls/staff available.

The organisations/dental colleges after fulfilling the above criteria applies to the Central Govt. for its permission as per Section 10A of the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 and Regulations framed thereunder. If found complete in all respects, the Central Government forwards the scheme to DCI for evaluation and recommendation. After taking into consideration the recommendations of the DCI, the inspection report and the scheme submitted by the applicant including availability of teaching and non-teaching staff as per norms or such other information as may be required, the Central Govt. issues Letter of intent usually with the following conditions:—

(1) The teaching and non-teaching staff is available as per Dental Council of India norms.

(2) The applicant has a feasible and time bound programme to provide additional equipments and infrastructural facilities, as per Dentral Council of India norms.

(3) The applicant will provide a performance bank guarantee of required sum in favour of Dental Council of India.

(4) Any other condition depending upon the requirements of the particular case.

After the above conditions are accepted/ fulfilled by the applicant and the bank guarantee is furnished, the Letter of Permission is issued.

संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना के अन्तर्गत निधियों का उपयोग

*38. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**
श्री नागमणि :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रदान की गई निधियों में बरती गई अनियमितताओं की शिकायतों के बावजूद किसी भी अधिकारी के विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो ऐसे अधिकारियों की राज्य-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है जिनके विरुद्ध उक्त शिकायतों के आधार पर विगत तीन वर्षों में कार्यवाही की गई है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रत्नमाला देहरेश्वर सवनूर) (क) से (ग) : सांसद स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना के अंतर्गत निधियों के उपयोग में कथित अनियमितता के संबंध में कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं। जब भी इस तरह की शिकायतें मिलती हैं, राज्य सरकार के संबंधित अधिकारियों से उसके बारे में रिपोर्ट मंगवाई जाती है और उन अधिकारियों को आवश्यक सुधारात्मक उपाय करने की सलाह दी जाती है। सांसद स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना का कार्यान्वयन जिला प्रमुखों के जरिए करवाया जाता है। चूंकि जिला प्रमुख राज्य सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण में होते हैं, अत: राज्य सरकारें ही उपर्युक्त अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई, यदि कोई की जानी हो, करने के वास्ते सक्षम प्राधिकारी होती है।

Release of seamen held by Taiwanese Authorities

*39. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Captain and a mate of the Indian Merchant Navy Vessel, Kasuga-II, which collided with a Taiwanese fishing boat, have been put behind bars by Taiwanese authorities since February 5, 1997;

(b) whether their detention is illegal as it violates the Convention on the Law of Sea, 1982;

(c) whether Government have received petitions from the families of these seafaring Indians to bring them back to India; and